

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0002] with the following amended paragraph.

[0002] Computer systems and computer software are constantly evolving. As computer systems evolve, the computer software designed to run on them must also evolve. Often, systems and software evolve at a constant pace, and a new computer system design can execute the latest computer software design. However, there are instances in which a new computer system is designed to operate old ~~computer, computer~~ software such as an old operating system. For this reason, new computer designs must maintain backward compatibility with old computer software

Please replace paragraph [0025] with the following amended paragraph.

[0025] A shown in FIG. 3, an initialization process 300 of a processor system (i.e., the processor system 100 of FIG. 1) may be performed by a processor such as the processor 102 of FIG. 1 based on, for example, the instructions and variables contained in the firmware image 202 of FIG. 2 (i.e., the processor boot instructions 204, the main firmware instructions or EFI 206, the compatibility support module 208 and the user/hardware variable space 210). It is known that the processor system initialization firmware image 202, as described above, may replace the BIOS in the processor system 100 and is responsible for initializing portions of the processor system 100 prior to executing an operating system boot process. Furthermore, the initialization process 300 may begin following a reset event such as, for example, a system reset event or a power-on event. However, the initialization process 300 may also begin as a result of other events that are not limited to reset events.

Please replace paragraph [0028] with the following amended paragraph.

[0028] In the known initialization process 300 of FIG. 3, the EFI 206 loads and executes the compatibility support module 208 (block 308) from the flash memory 110 on which the EFI 206 is stored. Furthermore, loading and executing the compatibility support module 208 (block 308) is an integral process of the EFI 206 that is always performed, regardless of whether the software boot target (i.e., the operating system or application program) requires legacy support. In this manner, the processor system 100 is always configured to support hardware/software interfaces that allow newer and legacy operating systems and application programs to communicate with the hardware comprising the processor system 100. Accordingly, the processor system 100 may load and execute a software boot target (block 312).

Please replace paragraph [0037] with the following amended paragraph.

[0037] If the software boot target does not require legacy support, the software boot target is loaded and executed (block 510). Alternatively, if legacy support is required to support the software boot target, the processor 102 locates the compatibility support module 208A (block 512). The compatibility support module 208A may not be located on the same computer readable medium as the EFI 206, so the processor 102 locates the compatibility support module 208A on an alternate computer readable medium such as the hard disk drive 122 of Fig. 1. The location of the compatibility support module 208A may be determined based on a location variable in the boot options of the user/hardware variable space 210. The location variable may provide an identification of the alternate computer readable medium on which the compatibility support module 208A is stored. Alternatively, the processor system 102 may search a plurality of alternate computer readable media to determine where the compatibility support module 208A is stored by, for example, finding and matching a pre-determined identifier or signature pattern associated with compatibility support module 208A. The alternate computer readable media may include any computer readable media that is communicatively coupled to the processor in a fixed manner, such as the hard disk drive 122 and the ROM 108, or any computer readable medium that is communicatively coupled to the processor system 100 in a removable manner, such as the removable storage medium 128. Additionally, the compatibility support module 208A may also be located on a remote processor system such as the processor system 144 of FIG. 1 communicatively coupled to the processor system 100 via the network 140.